

Application No. 10/563,802
Response to Office Action of January 29, 2007

APR 27 2007
Patent
Attorney Docket No. 86403-3

REMARKS

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges potential allowability of claims 25, 26, 28 to 32, 35, 37 to 39, 41 and 43.

The present patent application now comprises twenty-eight (28) claims, numbered 17, 18, 22 to 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 43 and 45 to 53.

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 39, which is now cancelled. Claims 18, 22 to 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42 and 43 have been amended to provide proper antecedents. Claims 39 to 41 and 44 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 to 16, 19 to 21, 33 and 36 were previously cancelled. New claims 45 to 53 have been added.

Support for amendments made can be found throughout the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added to the present patent application by the present amendment.

1. Examiner's remarks regarding claims 22 and 44

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that should claim 22 be found allowable, claim 44 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. The Examiner's remarks are moot in view of cancellation of claim 44.

2. Rejection of claims under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103, and allowable subject matter

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17, 18, 23, 24, 27, 34, 40 and 42 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,041,103 to Zegers (hereinafter referred to as "Zegers"). The Examiner also rejected claims 22 and 44 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zegers.

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Now, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of its base claim, i.e., claim 17.

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 39, which is now cancelled. Specifically, claim 17 now claims a ground vehicle, as previously claimed in claim 39.

In view of the Examiner's remarks regarding allowability of claim 39, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Claims 18, 22 to 24, 27, 34 and 42 depend on claim 17 and are thus also believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's rejections of claims 40 and 44 are moot in view of cancellation of these claims.

3. Patentability of new claims 45 to 53

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that each of claims 29 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of its base claim, i.e., claim 17 (as it stood prior to this amendment).

New independent claim 45 corresponds to the subject matter of claims 17 and 29 (as they stood prior to this amendment). In view of the Examiner's remarks regarding allowability of claim 29, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 45 is in condition for allowance. New claims 46 to 51 depend on new claim 45 and are thus also believed to be in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 52 corresponds to the subject matter of claims 17 and 35 (as they stood prior to this amendment). In view of the Examiner's remarks regarding allowability of claim 35, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 52 is in condition for allowance. New claim 53 depends on new claim 52 and is thus also believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

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Claims 17, 18, 22 to 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 43 and 45 to 53 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested. Early allowance of the present patent application is earnestly solicited.

If the application is not considered to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the Applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,


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